37 1959

ALABAMA

Alabama's Per Capita Income On Increase

NEW YORK (AP)—Alabamians made more money in 1958 than they did in the previous year, according to a magazine survey.

The magazine, Business Week, Saturday reported that the per capita income of Alabama residents last year was $1,[illegible] 5 per cent over 1957. During the same period, the magazine reported, the national per capita income declined .7 per cent.

Total personal income for 1958 increased two per cent—reaching $4,253,000,000 for Alabamians in 1958.

ARIZONA:

Private Jones's 'Gold'

Arizona's craggy Huachuca Mountains knew the tread of the conquistadores four centuries ago, and every canyon and cavern has its legend of buried Spanish treasure. But none of the older legends has a champion like Robert Jones.

Jones, a 45-year-old, 230-pound, illiterate Negro from Dallas, created his own legend in 1941 when he was stationed at Fort Huachuca as an infantry private. Taking a Sunday stroll on the reservation, so his story goes, he crashed into a brush-covered shaft some 32 feet deep. At the bottom he discovered a granite chamber, shored with hand-laid rock, containing at least 100 gold bars that weighed about 50 pounds each, and another 100 bars of black metal, possibly tarnished silver—millions of dollars in bullion.

Private Jones went back to his company area and reported his find to the first sergeant, who responded with the skepticism inherent in first sergeants. But a few days later Jones threw a $400 party for his friends and said he paid for it with part of $800 received from a man in nearby Douglas, Ariz. for a piece of one of the heavy gold bars.

In any event, Jones was shipped off to the Pacific before he could revisit his bonanza, and was seriously wounded. Ever since, between long sieges in veterans' hospitals and between odd jobs to supplement his disability pension, Jones had been talking to anyone who would listen about his hidden treasure.

Seven Come Eleven: Seven times in the past eleven years, he visited Fort Huachuca in his stubborn quest for gold, only to be told he couldn't dig on the reservation. Finally, this year, his story reached Maj. Gen. F.W. Moorman, commander of Fort Huachuca, now used as an electronics proving ground.

In General Moorman, Jones found a sympathetic listener. For one thing, Jones's service record showed he was an eminently honest and reliable soldier. Two Army psychiatrists interviewed him and reported that he was sane, firmly convinced he was telling the truth.

General Moorman realized that Jones just possibly might be right. And if he was, the government, under the law, would get 60 per cent of the treasure, plus taxes on Jones's 40 per cent.

The general made his decision, called Jones in and told him: "Start digging." Jones and a companion slogged up Huachuca Canyon with picks and shovels. Along the way, Jones pointed to a wooden shed blazed with his initials—all he knew how to write, he said.

'No Surrender' Jones (right): The treasure's there . . . 'Somewhere'

Vain Search: A little farther on, Jones picked a spot and planted his pick. "It's just about here," he said, "and just 32 feet down." But after a day of fruitless shoveling, Jones went back to headquarters for help.

Jones was offered a drill on condition that if it didn't hit an underground cavity at 32 feet, he would go back to Dallas. The drill ground down through the earth's crust and at just the right depth, vanished in emptiness. That did it.

A full colonel, Elbridge Bacon, was assigned to the search with a crew of men and tons of equipment. For two full weeks they bit and clawed through the rotten granite with pneumatic drills, scoop shovels, and bulldozers. When underground streams flooded their excavation, they brought up pumps.

Finally, at the weekend, fifteen days and an estimated $1,000 in the hole, the Army officials decided they would blast, and if there was no gold, they would quit the search. They drilled a hole 35 feet deep and dumped 30 sticks of dynamite in it. The blast created a crater, but revealed no gold.

Jones thanked them and said good-by, but he was not giving up his search. His confidence unshaken, he conceded he might have been a few feet off on the location, and firmly declared he would go to the Pentagon, or to the U.S. Treasury Department, for more help. Jones says, with all the conviction that man has revealed since he first thirsted and suffered for gold some 4,000 years ago: "I know the gold's there. Somewhere."

Oil On His Farm Can Cost Negro Welfare Dole

From The Commercial Appeal
Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, Dec. 11. — A Negro landowner who is an Arkansas Welfare client is unhappy.

Oil has been discovered on his farm near Lewisville in south Arkansas and he stands to lose his welfare check.

State Senator Lee Bearden of Leachville, state Land Commissioner Sam Jones and Commerce Commissioner Arthur Shirley had invested in a drilling operation together. Drillers hit oil early this week.

It is now producing 60 barrels a day, the state's daily limit which can be taken from a well.

The Negro, whose name was not disclosed, "sure was disappointed when he heard about us striking oil," Senator Bearden said. He said he hopes that what he gets out of the well is as much as the welfare check pays him."

State welfare regulations allow a property owner under certain conditions to own up to 80 acres of land, and still draw welfare pay. But in this case, it appeared definite the Negro landowner was going to lose his monthly welfare check.

"I think you could safely say that if he owns an interest in a producing oil well, he won't be on the welfare rolls much longer," dryly observed Assistant Welfare Commissioner A. J. Moss.

The Negro, said Commissioner Jones, will draw one-eighth royalty from the proceeds, expected to bring him at least several thousand dollars a year.

Adjudged Legal Claimant In Torregano Will-Contest

The Louisiana Weekly New Orleans

Gladys Torregano Stevens, 54-year-old New Orleans widow will get another chance at sharing the estate of Ernest J. Torregano, civic leader and one-time president of the San Francisco Planning Commission after she was adjudged a legal claimant to the $320,000 estate.

In a unanimous opinion, the State District Court of Appeal reversed a 2 1/2 year old ruling by Superior Judge Thomas M. Foley, who abruptly terminated a will-contested trial in which Mrs. Stevens asked recognition as Torregano's abandoned daughter and a daughter's share of the estate.

During the course of the aborted trial it came to light that Torregano, long known as a "Creole," and a dominant figure in the San Francisco French community, was in actuality a Negro, who had successfully "passed" the color line.

Judge Foley's action of May 22, 1957, in throwing Mrs. Stevens' case out of court, precipitated a near corridor revolt by the jury. The jurors said they stood 100 per cent behind Mrs. Stevens.

In ruling against Mrs. Stevens in the original suit, Judge Foley in a statement to the press said that "our sympathies are all with the girl and I hope the brother (Alfred Torregano, 67)...will call upon his charity and beneficence to take care of her and do something for her in the future."

Three months later, during arguments, Judge Foley refused to set aside his dismissal of the case, but again called on the younger Torregano to "make a fair settlement" on Mrs. Stevens.

Orleanian Wins Second Round In $200,000 Suit

The Louisiana Weekly New Orleans, La.

Sat. 10-12-59

Oakland, Calif.-(ANP)-A Negro woman who filed suit claiming she is the daughter of a one-time prominent "white" San Francisco attorney and demanding a portion of his estate, last week appeared to be winning her long fight.

Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens, 55, New Orleans, received a favorable decision to her suit when Superior court Judge John B. Molinari ordered a $200,000 share of the dead man's estate placed in the hands of a court-appointed receiver to await the outcome of the suit.

The judge took action after the state District Court of Appeals rendered a decision earlier this month favorable to Mrs. Stevens. The appeals tribunal ruled Nov. 6 that a lower court jurist had erred in not allowing Mrs. Stevens an opportunity to prove her claim two years ago.

In 1957, in a trial which made headlines, Superior court Judge Thomas M. Foley dismissed Mrs. Stevens' claim on the estate. He granted her only $1, the sum provided in Ernest J. Torregano's will for any person who might "assert any claim to share my estate by virtue of relationship or otherwise."

Torregano, successful in business in San Francisco, and once president of the city's planning commissioner, died a widower in 1954, leaving a huge estate.

Mrs. Stevens claims she is his daughter. She said Torregano deserted her and her mother in New Orleans in 1913 to "pass" for white. Later he moved to San Francisco where he was a prominent member of the French colony. He told acquaintances he was of Creole descent. There are a number of light-skinned Negroes in Louisiana who could and do pass for white.

The $200,000 placed in receivership and another $125,000, has been willed to Torregano's half brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Torregano, both allegedly white, who live here.

37 1959

D.C.

Non-whites hold balance of wealth, sales group told

WASHINGTON

How to penetrate the mass manager of the Washington non-whites are in the majority is causing business enterprises concern, a sales organization was told last week.

Mrs. Viola Warf, advertising market in the District how that AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper, speaking to the Capital-Washington Non - White Market, pointed out that it is this group which now holds the "balance of wealth" in the District. Recent statistics showed that 53 percent of the area's population is colored.

"There are business firms who would like to forget this market; others who will take advantage of this situation and still others who will continue to exploit the less fortunate colored families with false come on gimmicks," Mrs. Warf stated.

The smart businessman will forge ahead by advertising and cultivating the mass market, she stated.

* * *

PENETRATION OF the colored market at present is spotty, Mrs. Warf stated, and presents a challenge which must be met by all marketing representatives.

"Can any one media do the job alone? Or will it take a concerted effort of all marketing representatives to do an honest, ethical service undivided?" were some of the questions posed by Mrs. Warf.

Stating that the way has not been found to penetrate this "great mass of new wealth," Mrs. Warf concluded that there should be consultations, ethical practices and mutual effort among marketing representatives "if this job is to be carried forward to meet the high standard of advertising and marketing."

D. C. Negro Income Shows Fast Gain

Median family income for Negroes in the District has climbed much faster in the last decade than that for white families.

Between 1949 and 1958, Jerome P. Pickard reports, the median family income for Negro families living in the District jumped 61 per cent to $4225. In the same period, median family income for District white families increased 48 per cent to $6840.

The median is not an average figure. It is the point at which half the families have a higher income and half a lower income.

Pickard, former research director of the Washington Board of Trade and now associated with a research firm, spoke at a seminar of the annual conference sponsored by the Health and Welfare Council of the National Capital Area Friday.

His figures show that 1 in 4 Negro families in the metropolitan area earn $7000 or more. Pickard estimated 20,550 have incomes between $7000 and $9999 and there are another 6500 with incomes of $10,000 or above.

But even with their rapid gains, Pickard's figures show, the median income of Negroes in the whole urban area ($4365) is only 57 per cent of that of white families ($7625). And because of larger families, he added, the median economic level of area Negroes is actually only about one-half the white median.

For both Negro and white families, the median income is greater in the suburbs than in the District. The District has 83 per cent of the lowest income families (under $3000) in the metropolitan area.

Bob Harrison leaves cafe to veteran aide

WASHINGTON

Robert H. (Bob) Harrison, who died several weeks ago, left Harrison's Cafe located at 455 Florida Ave., NW and the bulk of his estate to the manager of the restaurant, Miss Nealy S. Boone, who had been employed by him for approximately 33 years.

According to a will filed for probate in District Court dated February 9, 1959, People's Congregational Church is to receive $1,000 "in appreciation of spiritual solace and friendly association which have resulted from my membership in the church where I have been a member of the Board of Trustees for more than 37 years.

* * *

THE HOUSE at 5074 Central Ave., SE is to be sold either at public auction or at private sale "as may appear to be in the best interest of my estate."

Proceeds from the sale are to be shared by Willie L. Skelton, long time employee who receives one half; Mary C. Lewis, a sister, who is to get 22½ percent; Minnie E. Fowler, another sister who receives 22 and 2/9 percent, and Daisy M. Bolden, another long time employee who is to receive 22 and 2/9 percent.

THE restauranteur, who was 84 years old when he died, also directed that $500 be awarded Alice S. Mayo, a "faithful employee" and J. Franklin Wilson, attorney, "who was my long time friend and associate" is to get $500. Mr. Wilson was also named executor of the estate.

In directing that Harrison's Cafe be awarded to Miss Boone, described as "my trusted and faithful employee" Mr. Harrison requested that the business premises, household goods, fixtures, equipment and other items be turned over to her as soon as the will is admitted to probate and that "she not be required to account to the Court or executor it being my opinion that this would better enable her to carry on the business on the same high plane that she as manager and I have endeavored to conduct said business for many years."

* * *

MISS BOONE also receives a building lot in Cedar Haven, Md. and "all the rest of my estate including any afterwards acquired real estate."

$100,000 will fought by sister

WASHINGTON

A court battle is shaping up over the estate of the late Robert (Bob) Harrison who left monies and property valued between $75,000 and $100,000.

Mrs. Minnie E. Fowler, 221 F St., NW, sister of Mr. Harrison, has filed a petition for caveat in District Court protesting legality of a will left by the restaurateur which bequeaths the greater portion of his estate to Miss Nealy S. Boone.

MISS BOONE, who had been employed by Mr. Harrison for more than 33 years, is the manager of Harrison's Cafe, 400 block Florida Ave., NW, which was owned by Mr. Harrison.

In the will dated February 9, 1959, Mr. Harrison left his sister, Mrs. Fowler, 22 and 2/9 percent of the proceeds from sale of a home at 5074 Central Ave., SE. Others sharing in the proceeds from the house are another sister, Mary C. Lewis, 22½ percent; an employee, Daisy M. Bolden, 22 and 2/9 percent and a second employee, Willie L. Skelton, one-half percent.

* * *

MRS. FOWLER charges in her petition that the February 9 document was not the last will left by Mr. Harrison. She also alleges that he was not of sound mind or memory at the time it was executed and contends the will was obtained through "fraud and deceit" by Miss Boone and others.

Miss Boone, under terms of the will, receives Harrison's Cafe, valued at approximately $3,000 and the rest of the restaurateur's estate with the exception of the Central Ave. home, $1,000 awarded to People's Congregational Church, and $500 each to J. Franklyn Wilson, attorney who was named executor of the estate and Alice S. Mayo, an employee.

MR. WILSON, in filling an answer to Mrs. Fowler's allegations, denied her charges. He withdrew as counsel in the case, stating his intention of appearing at any court hearing as a witness. He was replaced as attorney for Miss Boone by George E. C. Hayes.

According to an accounting of the estate, Mr. Harrison held $29,648.03 in stocks and bonds and owned real estate valued at $49,500 in the District and $750 in Maryland.

The Court appointed Miss Boone collector of the estate.

37 1959

FLORIDA

White Rancher Wills $100,000 to Woman

SEBRING, Fla. — Mrs. Ellen Mae Hansen is $100,000 richer after having been willed $100,000 by a white rancher whom she had treated for ulcers and a bad leg.

Duane V. Palmer, the deceased owner of considerable land in High lands County, had died of a heart attack on Christmas Day.

In his will he had pointed out that Mrs. Hansen, 45, had used "old-fashioned remedies" in treating his ailments.

MRS HANSAN, who lives with her hsuband, Ivan, on the Palmer ranch, works as a beautician in DeSoto City.

Commenting on the gift, Mrs. Hansen said, Mr. Palmer was a good friend to me and my husband. We had helped Mr. Palmer in many ways for the 14 years we knew him."

The late Mr. Palmer was 70 years of age when he died.

Rich White Rancher Wills $100,000 to Negro Woman

By Herald Services

SEBRING — Wealthy white rancher Duane V. Palmer, 70, has willed $100,000 to a Negro woman who had treated his ulcers and a bad leg with "old-fashioned remedies."

Palmer died of a heart attack Christmas Day, 1957. He owned considerable land in Highlands County and left the $100,000 to Ellen Mae Hansen, nee Hansen, 45-year-old DeSoto City beautician who lives with her husband, Ivan, on the Palmer ranch near here.

Palmer also bequeathed half his estate to his widow, Lillian, and the balance to a nephew, Charles Palmer, and a sister, Lena.

37 1959

INCOME OF U.S. IN 1958 RECORD

Sets New High During Last Quarter

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government said Sunday the national income rose to a record annual rate of [illegible] billion in the last quarter of 1958.

The report said corporation profits advanced in the same period to a seasonally adjusted rate of $37,200,000,000 — close to a record.

A commerce department announcement said the upward trend of both income and profits was continuing. Most economists believe profits are now at a record level.

National income hit a high of $364 billion in 1957. The peak for corporate profits was $43 billion in 1950.

For all of 1958 the report said, national income fell to $360,800,000,000 because of the business recession. The low point came in the first quarter with a steady improvement in record since then.

Corporate profits last year totalled $36,700,000,000. This was $6,700,000,000 less than in 1957. Earnings began to recover in the third quarter.

The Eisenhower administration has predicted record corporate profits of $47 billion this year. Many government economists now believe the estimate is too conservative.

National income in the fourth quarter of 1958 was up $9,200,000,000 from the third quarter annual rate. Corporate profits were up $7,300,000,000 from the July-September rate.

Servants Get $35,000 in Woman's Will

ATLANTA—Loyal service has brought $35,000 to Negro servants of the late Mrs. Sally Brown Connally Martin, wealthy white widow of a former president of the Trust Company of Georgia.

Mrs. Martin's will, filed here last week, left $25,00 to Louis Walton, whom she described as "my faithful chauffeur for many years." She also set aside the sum of $10,000 for Mrs. Julia Mobley, whom she described as "my faithful maid."

She also made provisions for clearing off all indebtedness on Mrs. Mobley's home and making any necessary repairs on the home.

The wealthy widow also left $1,500 to two Negro churches, Bethlehem Baptist Church getting $1,000, and Cosmopolitan AME Church getting $500. She died Dec. 13.

Says Home Ownership Still Rising In Negro Families

The spurt in home ownership by minority group families that began on the heels of the Supreme Court ruling on restrictive covenants has not yet reached the tapering off point.

This observation was made by George H. Walker, Jr., secretary of Illinois Federal Savings and Loan Association, this week. In fact, the abandonment of covenants and the appearance of certain new economic factors point to a new upsurge in home buying by Negroes, Walker said.

This is particularly true in new homes, according to the finance expert.

The pattern of the market was for Negroes to buy already standing homes vacated by white families during the years immediately following 1948. Walker declared, but recently, and particularly in the last five years, Negroes have been buying homes in new developments.

What will happen in the future will be determined by many factors, Walker cautioned, but a tentative prediction is that the rate of home buying will increase.

This will be brought about by the increase in population in the South end of Cook County as a result of the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, this summer. Many of the 500,000 families expected to move there in the next decade will be Negro, Walker said.

There is not now anywhere near enough built-up housing to accommodate these families, and the prospect is that home developers, rather than builders of apartments will step into the picture to fill much of their needs.

If Legislation aimed at eliminating racial discrimination in employment is passed by the state legislature, it will mean a setup in the pace at which Negro families are moving into the middle income bracket. It is this group that will continue to furnish the largest proportion of Negro home owners for sometime to come, Walker predicted.

Illinois Federal Savings and Loan Association has anticipated this strong market in housing, and is developing long range policies designed to best serve it, Walker said. At the same time, the 25-year-old institution has exercised caution in order to offer maximum safety of their funds and top dividends for its savers.

"In this way," said Walker, "we offer the best opportunities to savers and borrowers. As a result, we can today offer immediate service to qualified borrowers, and can still pay a dividend rate that is higher than average on fully insured savings."

A testimonial to the soundness of Illinois Federal's policy is that it has placed more than 3,000 families in their own homes since 1934.

MRS. VIOLA MONTAYA, who was one of two Chicagoans to win $28,000 on "Shantung" in the Epsom Derby in Epsom, England this week, shows her winning ticket and says God must have been in the plan because she surely needs the money. An employee in the accounting department of the Illinois Secretary of State office, the lucky matron was not excited about the windfall; says she might take a vacation to the Philippines with her husband who is a native there. (Photo by Bell)

Dr. Scales Provided Family Trust Fund

Bystander

According to the contents of a will read last Thursday, in Polk county courthouse, Dr. E. T. Scales, eminent Des Moines physician who died of a heart attack Aug. 11, a trust fund was established for the benefit of his widow and two children.

In his will, Dr. Scales directed that his sister, Mrs. Georgia Battles, be given $500 and that his widow, Mrs. Lillian Scales, be given the home. He bequeathed 500 shares of stock each in Eyes Incorporated, to Mrs. Scales and their two children, Emmet Thomas Scales, jr., of San Francisco, Cal., and a daughter, Mrs. Martha Zachary of St. Paul, Minn.

Payments

The will directed that Dr. Scales' farm in Dallas County be sold and proceeds placed in a trust fund with his remaining assets. From the trust, Mrs. Scales is to receive $150 a month; the son $1,000 to complete his law studies and $50 a month for 20 months after he opens his law office; and the daughter up to $3,000 for postgraduate work at a university.

The remainder of the trust, after Mrs. Scales' death, is to be divided equally between the two children. W. Lawrence Oliver of Des Moines was named executor of the estate. An inventory of Dr. Scales property has not been filed.

Bige Wyatt Leaves $70,000 To Charities

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Bige Wyatt, business man and civic leader who died here on November 16, left bequests totalling $70,000 to charities and civic organizations.

His will was filed in probate court here last week.

Wyatt left $20,000 to the Union Memorial Methodist church of which he was a member and a trustee. A similar bequest of $20,000 was left to the Pilander Smith college of Little Rock, Ark., of which he was a board member.

To the board of the Metropolitan YMCA, Wyatt left $10,000 and to the Pine Street branch YMCA went property at 4323 West Belle place or $10,000.

The St. Louis Metropolitan Church Federation was given $5,000. The former insurance executive willed $4,000 to the national office of the NAACP and $1,000 to the St. Louis branch of the NAACP.

Wyatt willed $1,000 to his sister, Miss Bessie Brown of Troupe, Tex.

Bequests of $1,000 each were left to three aunts, Mrs. Albama Bullok, Mrs. Ophelia Walton and Mrs. Cordia Pringle.

The sum of $1,000 was left to Wyatt's secretary, Mrs. Beaulah Hughes and $500 each was willed to two cousins, a god child and a friend. Included in this group are Martha C. Lewis, Ophelia Sampson, Olean Cowan, Eva Jo Scott and James Cowan.

The residue of the estate was left to his wife, Mrs. Ethel Wyatt, 4358 Enright Ave.

No estimate was made of the value of the estate.

Wyatt died suddenly of a heart attack on Monday evening, Nov. 16.

He was president of the New Age Federal Savings and Loan association. He was a former taxicab owner and insurance executive.

He was the first Negro elected to the board of the Metropolitan Y.M.C.A.

Dr. W. A. Young was elected president of the New Age Federal Savings and Loan association on November 20 to succeed Wyatt.

Sweeps Smiles—Mr. and Mrs. William Best of New York display the sweepstakes ticket that won $140,000 for them. The Bests insist that they are going to spend their loot wisely and will use what's necessary to send their children through college.—Campbell Photo.

Gene Mumford and Jackie Wilson.

The Dominoes also developed the idea of executing dance routines while singing.

Ward has since branched off into nearly every branch of theatricals. His firm (Billy Ward Enterprises, Inc.) handles movie scores, music publishing, talent handling and other phases of the business.

BILLY WARD
Beneficiary

MRS. ROSE MARKS
Leaves Bequest

She Guided Him To Top As A Star

Special to Journal and Guide

NEW YORK — Theatrical personality Billy Ward will receive $150,000 of a $200,000 bequest granted him in the will of his late manager, Mrs. Rose A. Marks, it was announced this week.

A joint statement issued by Eugene Marks, husband of the deceased, and Ward's attorneys said that the existence of the will had been kept a closely-guarded secret since her death in 1955. This was done at Ward's request when relatives threatened to contest the document in court.

"BILLY WAS our best friend," said Marks, a publisher, "and he proved his sincerity when he refused the money rather than go to court and spotlight a rift among people he loved. So I got together with all parties concerned and, although it took nearly five years, I worked out this settlement."

Overshadowed by Ward's success in show business is the fact that he is a top commercial artist and worked as Marks' art director until Mrs. Marks discovered his talents as a musician.

MRS. MARKS took personal charge of Ward's musical career, developing his Dominoes into one of the highest-paid acts in the nation. The group pioneered in the lush niteries of Las Vegas and Miami Beach and scored well on recordings with such outstanding lead singers as Clyde McPhatter,

Earn $285,000,000 Annually

Cleveland's Negroes Swell Ranks of 'Middle Classes'

By JULIAN KRAWCHECK
(Cleveland Press Staff writer)

Middle-class Cleveland—the home-owning, church-going, money-in-the-bank core of the nation's seventh largest city—has an important new addition.

It comes from the ranks of the city's mushrooming Negro population, now estimated at 220,000, eagerly reaching out for status, security and an equal share in the good things of American life.

For many of them, these good things have been a long time coming, but they have come—and to a degree, undreamed of in Uncle Tom's day.

What the bounties of Cleveland life have meant to the colored man—and what, in turn the colored man has meant to the city's economy—can be measured by several basic statistics. These show that Cleveland's Negroes:

EARN ABOUT $285,000,000 ANNUALLY—an average of $4,500 per family.

OWN AT LEAST 17,000 HOMES, with a cash equity of $85,000,000 or more.

SPEND $200,000,000 A YEAR for retail goods and services.

PAY INCOME TAXES—$25,000,000 a year—an average of $400 per family.

SAVE $10,000,000 annually in savings accounts, insurance and government bonds. (President Armond Robinson of Quincy Savings and Loan puts accumulated Negro savings at $150,000,000.)

Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of significant articles which appeared recently in the Cleveland Press. The Pittsburgh Courier considered them to be of such profound significance that it obtained the gracious permission of the Cleveland Press to reproduce them in entirety.

It is apparent from these figures, and others compiled by this reporter in weeks of study, that the Cleveland Negro—and, of course, the American Negro in general—has come a long way from Uncle Tom's depressing day.

IN A WHITE man's civilization which once stereotyped the Negro as a domestic or a happy-go-lucky minstrel, the colored man, through hard work, education and the belated smile of Dame Fortune, is passing through the portals of middle-class America in ever-increasing numbers.

● A special report, prepared for the Illuminating Gas Co., said 30 per cent of America's Negroes (compared to 51 per cent of the whites) have entered the circle of middle-class income—$4,000 to $7,500—while five per cent (compared to 11 per cent of the whites) are in the $7,500-up bracket.

There is good reason to believe that Cleveland, nationally recognized as one of the five best American cities for Negroes to live in, can top these national percentages.

A sampling taken here last summer by Chicago's Johnson Publishing Co., publisher of Ebony and other Negro magazines, showed 37 per cent of Cleveland's colored community to be in the $4,000-up bracket.

The economic evolution of the Negro could not have happened, of course, without change in employment conditions for the Negro.

■

JOBS, LONG reserved for white men, have opened up to Negroes, particularly in Cleveland, in increasing numbers. Although the situation still is far from ideal, reflected in a disproportionate number of Negro relief cases and in deplorable housing in many slum areas, experts agree that the qualified Negro has a far better chance to get a good job than he did 20 years ago.

● Word travels fast, and in the last 20 years, Cleveland's Negro population has increased 178 per cent. Today, colored workers hold jobs they never hoped to hold when the mass migration from the South began just before World War II. The Press reported, in 1955, that the Negro rate of income had climbed 30 per cent faster than white income since the end of the war.

These conditions, here and elsewhere, are responsible for the emergence of a great Negro middle class for the first time in American history. What this has meant to the city's economy was cogently summed up by Theodore Williams, one of seven Negro members of City Council. He said:

● Cleveland has been a Promised Land for the Negro. He has migrated here because of better opportunities in jobs, education and general living.

● "Unlike some other migrant groups who move on as soon as their jobs fold, the Negro is here to stay. He weathers recurring periods of unemployment, sticks it out the best way he can, and is available when things open up again.

"From an economic viewpoint, the Negro community is more important to the city than its numbers and earnings indicate. That's because the colored population is centered in the central city and spends its money in Cleveland proper, not in suburban shopping centers.

"The downtown area would be in far worse condition than it is if it did not have the Negro dollar to sustain it."

■

FROM JAMES T. GRIFFIN, area group manager for Sears, Roebuck & Co., came this comment:

● "As the population within the city has shifted, the Negro dollar has become more important to business, generally. The Negro, always, has been a good spender. Now that he has become more stabilized, this spending power has become a real economic force in the community.

"A larger percentage of Sears' business today, as with all stores in the city proper, comes from Negro customers than was the case 10 or 15 years ago. It is good business, a factor that we have got to be conscious of.

● "By and large, the Negro is a good credit risk."

Another widely known white merchant put it this way:

"If it weren't for the nearby Negro buyers, many downtown stores really would be in trouble."

Will Leaves Chauffeur Well Fixed

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Joseph T. Beaver, 3120 Savoy Pl., received a $10,000 bequest and $300 a month under terms of his former employer's will, which was filed last week in Probate Court.

Mr. Beaver had been employed 40 years as a chauffeur for Mrs. Laura G. Duttenhofer, widow of Val Duttenhofer, a Cincinnati shoe manufacturer.

Mr. Beaver claims that Mrs. Duttenhofer had been a real friend to him.

The Beavers are the parents of three children, Joseph Jr., a career officer in the diplomatic corps, is presently stationed in Mexico, where he resides with his wife and three children; Mary resides with her husband in California, where she is a teacher in the Los Angeles public schools; June, the only child living in Cincinnati, is married and has a daughter.

First of a Series on Fabulous Browns

$500,000 Donor Was In Contrast to His Kin

By RALPH E. KOGER

(First in a Series)

PITTSBURGH—Who were the fabulous . . . now even legendary and wealthy Brown family of medical specialists and their parents made their money from raising and selling apples and apple products on a large estate in the vicinity of Winchester, Va.

But the thing about Dr. Brown which most Pittsburghers remember was the scandal which rocked Pittsburgh society 23 years ago. They also ask why very few Pittsburghers or members of the medical profession turned out at his funeral.

Dr. James Erroll Brown, the last remaining member of the family, was a genito-urology specialist, who died on Dec. 16 on Pittsburgh's Presbyterian Hospital shortly before his will revealed that he left his entire fortune, estimated between a quarter and a half-million dollars in stocks, bonds and properties, to a 20-year younger white friend, who once drove a cab.

• The news that Dr. Brown, who had no known survivors, had given his fortune to a white cab driver who, in late years, installs conveyor equipment in steel mills . . . a man about whom Dr. Brown's associates had heard little more than nothing . . . shocked the entire Negro community in the United States.

• The reason was that one of his equally brilliant and famous brothers, Dr. John W. Brown, died less than two years before and willed $75,000 of his fortune to Lincoln University and $40,000 to a medical clinic at Virginia Union University.

Was it, therefore, too much for Negroes to dream, once they heard that his brother, Dr. James Erroll Brown, had died that he might leave a good portion of his fortune to such organizations as the NAACP, which is currently engaged in a struggle to effect first-class citizenship in this nation or to some school such as Pitt, from which he was graduated, or to the Falk Clinic in which he was also an instructor?

■

THE BROWN FAMILY originated in Winchester, Va., and

Negro Wills $250,000 to Cab Driver

PITTSBURGH — (AP) — A former cab driver has been left a Negro doctor's estimated $250,000 estate.

JOHN W. CONLON of nearby Shaler township, who is white, is the sole heir of DR. JAMES ERROLL BROWN, a Winchester, Va., native, who died Dec. 16. Dr. Brown, a bachelor, practiced medicine almost 50 years in Pittsburgh.

According to Conlon's wife, he and Dr. Brown had "a wonderful friendship." Conlon, now a repairman for a conveyor firm, was not available for comment.

Mrs. Conlon said: "The way the friendship started was in 1914 when my husband was a taxicab driver. He was taking an injured person to a doctor's office, and Dr. Brown's office was closest. The two men became firm friends."

Mrs. Conlon said her husband will continue working "as long as he's able to." The Conlons have no children.

Medic Who Gave Away $500,000 Son Of Va., Parents

By RALPH E. KOGER

(Second of a Series)

Dr. James Erroll Brown of Pittsburgh was the last of a long line of a professional Winchester, Va. family, whose parents made a tidy sum as tycoons in the apple industry.

The members of his family included two brothers and a sister who were physicians, plus a third brother and a second sister, who were pharmacists . . . all of whom reputedly died wealthy and all of whom, except Dr. J. E. Brown, who recently died and had his will made known, bequeathed large sums to charities and civic groups, Negro and white.

Dr. J. E. Brown, who died on Dec. 16, in contrast, willed all of his earthly assets to a white friend, John W. (Jack) Conlon. None of the brothers and sisters of the Brown family ever married.

THE OLD ADAGE about "apples keeping doctors away" notwithstanding, the five children allied with the medical profession, who were born on the estate of the Browns, tycoons of the apple industry, were:

Dr. Harry M. Brown, a physician who migrated to Pittsburgh and practiced medicine there for many years before he died.

Dr. John W. Brown, also a physician, who also practiced in Pittsburgh but who returned to Winchester, Va., many years before his death two years ago. He left $75,000 to Lincoln University and $40,000 to a Mound Bayou, Miss., clinic.

Dr. Fairfax Brown, a sister, who was a physician in Washington, D.C., and Winchester, Va., who left a great deal of her money to charity.

Dr. Sarah Brown, a pharmacist, who lived both in Washington, D.C., and Winchester, Va.

Dr. Peter Brown, also a pharmacist of Winchester, Va.

And Dr. J. E. Brown, who died recently.

■

FOR SOME FOUR DECADES, Dr. Jimmy Brown had left his impact on the city of his adoption. He was a welcome guest member and visitor of Pittsburgh's "400" during the scintillating, titillating days of the "roaring 20s" and the "twinkling 30s."

His name was an "open sesame," as mothers of Pittsburgh's debutantes of those days set their sights for this keen-featured physician, who dressed with immaculate taste, and whose keen eyes, peering behind pince-nez glasses, observed the passing petticoat parade with cultured aplomb.

Last week, the will of "Dr. Jimmy" Brown opened up unexplored avenues for gossip and chit-chat.

Across the bridge tables of the matinee crowd . . . in brightly lit parlors where tea was poured . . . across tautly stretched telephone wires . . . in the pool parlors and cafes . . . the electrifying story of Jimmy Brown's will shoved all other news into the backgroumd.

In death, Dr. Jimmy Brown once again captured the headlines, like he did in 1936; but that's another story to be told later.

DR. J. E. BROWN
. . . it was his money

'Hated to See Him Go,' Says Beneficiary

Wealthy Medic Leaves $500,000 Estate to White Friend in Pgh.

By GEORGE E. BARBOUR
(Courier Staff Writer)

PITTSBURGH — Negro physician Dr. James E. Brown who died Dec. 16 with an estate which had been estimated at over one-half million dollars, has left all his earnings to a white friend.

• **The exact amount of the estate is not known but the will recently probated in the Register of Wills office revealed that Dr. Brown, the first Negro physician to specialize in urology in the Pittsburgh area, left his estate to John W. Conlon of 500 Mt. Royal Blvd., Shaler Township.**

When questioned by a Courier reporter, Conlon, now an erector of steel plants, said that he and Dr. Brown were the best of friends since 1914 when they first met.

THE 60-YEAR-OLD Conlon said that the money will make no difference in his style of living and "I will go on working."

Explaining how the friendship developed, Conlon said that as a cab driver in 1914, he took an injured person to Dr. Brown.

• **"It was because he was the only doctor who was available at that time in early morning," Conlon said.**

In subsequent years of hacking, Conlon continued to take emergency cases to Dr. Brown's East Liberty office.

■

BUT, HE EXPLAINED, the friendship, not the number of cases taken to the medic, probably was the reason Dr. Brown remembered him in his will.

Conlon said that he and Dr. Brown had many enjoyable hours together at Conlon's home and traveling throughout the state and in neighboring states.

• **"He was a fine person," Mrs. Conlon said during an interview.**

Conlon, who knows so much about Dr. Brown's family that he can give biographical data about all members, said:

• **"I didn't expect to be the beneficiary of Dr. Brown.**

• **"His sister, who had about half a million dollars, left everything to charity and I thought Dr. Brown would do the same."**

Dr. Brown, one of a family of three brothers and two sister, all well-trained professionals, was the last of his family to die.

• **"I lost a wonderful friend," Conlon said.**

• **"I hated to see him go."**

During Dr. Brown's last days at the hospital, Conlon was there quite often.

AS THE MEDIC was dying, Conlon received an urgent call to rush to the hospital.

"The call was at 10:15. I arrived at 10:18 P.M., but Mr. Brown had died," Conlon said.

Millionaire's Fortune for Both Races

Negro Leaves $$ to Needy!

PHILADELPHIA (ANP) — Scholarship aid for needy boys of both races will continue through benefit of the scholarship fund left by the late Colonel John McKee, Negro Civil War veteran.

Colonel McKee's estate has grown to $1,320,614. It has thus far seen to the education of a number of boys whose tuitions totaled $28,000.

Colonel McKee built up a fortune with a real estate business conducted in his own basement. He also owned an oyster house.

In his will, he stipulated that his estate should be used to establish the "Colonel John McKee College" patterned after the U.S. Naval Academy but open to both white and Negro boys.

Such an academy could not be set up with the funds then available and Orphans Court Judge Robert V. Bolger suggested that during the interim that time be used by the court to persuade others to engage in the project. He stated that McKee's will outlined money could be accepted from other sources to help realize the school.

Doctor wills $250G estate to long-time blond friend

PITTSBURGH (NNPA)—Dr. James E. Brown, 80, a bachelor with no immediate relatives, has left his $250,000 estate to John W. Conlon, white, a former cab driver, who lives in a small rented home and now works as a repairman.

Conlon's wife said his friendship with the general medical practitioner dated back to 1914 when her husband was driving a cab in Pittsburgh and took to Dr. Brown's office a patient who became ill.

She said Conlon took, and sent, other patients to the doctor and that she and her husband visited him during his last illness before he died Dec. 16.

"BUT WE didn't talk about money or him leaving us anything and we were completely surprised by what he did," Mrs. Conlon said.

Although the will was filed for probate Dec. 22, details of the bequest were not learned until Friday. Trust company officers handling the estate estimated it will amount to about $200,000 after Federal and state taxes.

37 1959

TEXAS

Convict Gets $12,000 Estate

CLEBURNE, Tex.—Louis Hughes, 55, serving a 25-year sentence for murder in the penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., has fallen heir to a $12,000 estate, authorities disclosed last week.

He was named in the will of his aunt, Mrs. Gertrude Ikard, 69, who died March 26.

Mrs. Ikard cut off four relatives with $1 each and specified that Hughes be appointed executor without bond, a specification that immediately caused complications.

■

MISSOURI PRISON WARDEN E. V. Nash said that "normally when an inmate inherits a large sum of money, we try to talk him into putting the money into Government bonds. He can have a small portion of it if he wants it, but 95 per cent of the money is invested and given to the inmate when he is discharged."

Nash, as warden, will have to serve without pay as chief executor of Mrs. Ikard's estate since Missouri law forbids an inmate from handling such legal matters.

Hughes, who has been jailed for nine years, has a good prison record and could complete his sentence in eight more years, Nash said.

Fabulously Rich Oilman Leaves Chauffeur $5,000

FORT WORTH — Sid Richardson, a fabulously wealthy Texas oilman who died Sept. 30, left a paltry $5,000 to his Negro chauffeur Joe Daniel who had worked for him for 20 years.

Richardson, 68, who was a bachelor, left 13 million dollars to his sisters, Mrs. F. P. Bass of Fort Worth and Mrs. Howell Smith of Dallas, who were already wealthy, and to four nieces and nephews.

And for anyone who can convince a judge that he is a son or a daughter of the oilman, there is a bequest in Richardson's will for him or her. It totals exactly $1. His will stipulates that he left no descendants. His wealth has been estimated at over 100 million dollars.

37 1959

VIRGINIA

NEGRO DOCTOR WILLS $250,000 TO CAB DRIVER

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 10 (AP) A Negro doctor has left his entire estate—estimated at $250,000—to a white man who formerly drove a cab.

A will on file in the Allegheny County Register of Wills Office lists John W. Conlon of nearby Sheler Township, as the sole heir of Dr. James Erroll Brown, a Winchester (Va.) native who died last December 16 after practicing medicine almost 50 years in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Conlon, a repairman for a conveyor firm, was not immediately available for comment. His wife said "my husband and Dr. Brown had a wonderful friendship and I liked the doctor very much, too. He was a fine man."

The way the friendship started was in 1914 when my husband was a taxicab driver," she said. "He was taking an injured person to a doctor's office and Dr. Brown's office was closest. The two men became firm friends. But Dr. Brown never visited us. He didn't go out much. We saw him in his office many times, though. He was our doctor."